

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

It is a great honor to be nominated for re-election as a candidate for one of the officer's positions of the Latin American Commission. I am writing to confirm my desire to stand for this election and let me explain briefly the reasons for accepting this candidature.

Ecuador and most of the LA nations are characterized by geographic, economic and social differences. As a result, the prevalence and incidence of epilepsy in the region is higher than in developed countries. Only a small percentage of the population has access to institutions well equipped with modern methods of diagnosis. Most people suffer the effect of poverty, illiteracy and malnutrition and have limited access to some public facilities that cannot provide adequate service. In some areas of our region near to 80% of people with epilepsy do not receive treatment at all. This is a significant treatment gap. Of course there have been major advances in diagnosis and treatment coverage however there is a lot to be done still.

In case I receive your support I will keep working in our common goals such as stand up for the care of the patients with epilepsy. My personal working plan for the next four years for the LA Commission is based on the following:

1. PRIMARY HEALTH CARE : Based on the fact that the most cost-effective way to decrease the treatment gap in developing countries is to deliver epilepsy attention through primary health care. I propose to support the outstanding work that the LAC has been doing on this matter in the last four years . The commission should impulse this initiative looking forward to incentive the health authorities to recognize Primary Health Care as a policy
2. EDUCATION AND RESEARCH: As the Past-President of the LECE I had the chance to open and coordinate the first "Continuous Medical Education Program On Line" in Ecuador mostly dedicated to young general practitioners, medical residents and rural community physicians. Near to 800 people followed this program. It has been an enormous privilege to serve as the General Secretary of the ALADE and the Chair of the Epidemiology and Research Commission. We have organized several courses in different countries and promoted several research projects. I personally believe that education is the only way to improve health care in epilepsy and also the future development of research in LA. The Commission should consider investing money in education matters and establish basic epilepsy courses "on line" for the

region. I plan to keep supporting educational and research activities based on coordinated efforts to please the needs of the 19 chapters.

3. SUPPORT THE LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS (LACE): Quito resulted in a successful Congress with around 800 people from several regions attending and participating not only for the academic program but also activities such as the luncheon of the OMS/PAHO initiative and the codes validation of the New ILAE Epilepsies Classification. The Buenos Aires last LACE also was successful with an outstanding academic agenda. If I am elected I will support all the organizational aspects of the next LACE and contribute to the scientific quality and success of the enterprise.

I feel my self quite passionate about being part of the LAC team to continue the work for ensure that all individuals in LA have the educational sources that are fundamental for understanding, diagnosing and treating person with epilepsy.

Sincerely

Patricio Abad Herrera.